





# **Approval of Subject Matter Preparation Programs Submitted by Colleges and Universities**

## **Professional Services Division**

**June 19, 2002**

### **Executive Summary**

This item contains a listing of a subject matter program recommended for approval by an appropriate review panel, according to procedures adopted by the Commission.

### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

The Professional Services Division is responsible for reviewing proposed preparation programs, consulting with external reviewers, as needed, and communicating with institutions and local education agencies about their program proposals. The Commission budget supports the costs of these activities.

### **Policy Question**

Should the subject matter program identified in this report be approved?

### **Recommendation**

That the Commission approve the subject matter preparation program listed in this report.



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### **Background Information**

The work of developing new standards for the preparation of California teachers began with SB 1422 (1992). Subsequent legislation, SB 2042 (1998), prompted the appointment of Advisory Panels to develop new standards for Professional Teacher Preparation Programs and for Elementary Subject Matter Preparation Programs. The SB 2042 Advisory Panels met between 1998-2001, and presented draft standards to the Commission in January, 2001. An extensive field review of the new standards followed, and the SB 2042 Advisory Panels subsequently met to review the input from the field and revise the Draft Standards based on field input. The final draft Standards were presented to the Commission in September, 2001.

At its meeting of September 6, 2001, the Commission approved new Standards under SB 2042 for Elementary Subject Matter Preparation Programs and for Professional Teacher Preparation Programs, and an Implementation Plan for transitioning to these new sets of Standards. At its meeting of October 4, 2001, the Commission approved new Blended Program Standards under SB 2042, and at its meeting of March 7, 2002, the Commission approved new Induction Program Standards under SB 2042.

Using resources from the Title II HEA Teacher Quality Enhancement State Grant, the Commission made available planning grants for institutions willing to become "Early Adopters" of the SB 2042 Standards. Thirty-two institutions subsequently were granted funds and submitted their program responses to the SB 2042 Standards by the deadline date of April 1, 2002. Of these thirty-two institutions, eleven were submitting responses to the Elementary Subject Matter Preparation Standards, and thirty were submitting responses to the Professional Teacher Preparation Standards (several institutions were submitting response to both).

Additional program submission windows are: September 2, 2002, November 1, 2002, February 3, 2003, April 1, 2003, August 1, 2003, and September 1, 2003.

### **Selection and Composition of the Review Panels**

A panel of experts consisting of K-12 professionals and post-secondary education professionals are reviewing program proposals under the new standards. The Commission on Teacher Credentialing made a concerted effort to identify readers with particular background expertise relating to the SB 2042 standards and to the fields of teacher preparation and subject matter preparation. Applications and criteria for selection were mailed to all institutions with currently accredited programs, were distributed at professional meetings, and were posted on the Commission's website. Each reader's application was reviewed against the criteria, and qualified readers were then recommended to the Executive Director for appointment to the SB 2042 Review Panel.

Readers were assigned to a Professional Teacher Preparation Review Panel, an Elementary Subject Matter Preparation Review Panel, or to the AB 1059 review panel (assigned to review the responses to Standard 13 related to teaching English Learners).

### **Review Panel Training and the Review Process**

The Review Panels met several times between April and June, 2002. The initial meeting in April, 2002, included training on the SB 2042 Standards and several calibration activities to ensure the internal consistency of the program review. Review teams for the Professional Teacher Preparation programs generally reviewed one program submission; review teams for the Elementary Subject Matter Preparation programs generally reviewed two program submissions; review teams for the AB 1059 program submissions reviewed multiple program submissions.

SB 2042 and AB 1059 Review teams began their reading of their assigned program document(s) during the April 2002 meetings, and continued the reading process during the remainder of April. Reviewers read the program sponsors' responses to the Common Standards and to the applicable Program Standards. At the beginning of May 2002, feedback was provided to all of the program sponsors regarding the Review Team's findings. Review Teams determined either that a given standard and all of its elements were "Met," or that "Additional Information [was] Needed" in order to make a determination relative to that standard and/or one or more of its elements.

Program sponsors subsequently provided additional information responding to the Review Team's requests, and another Review Team meeting was held in Sacramento on June 4, 2002. Early Adopter program responses that had arrived by that date were reviewed by the Review Team members, and a determination was made as to whether the particular program being reviewed had met all of the applicable SB 2042 and/or AB 1059 standards. The Review Teams will be meeting again on July 8 to review the additional material submitted by the remaining Early Adopter programs.

The SB 2042 Program Submission Review Process was facilitated for the first time by an extensive technology component. As a result of a pilot program with Palo Alto Research Center Incorporated (PARC), the Commission used a secure web-based, group-sharable and group-editable review form to facilitate the work of the Review Teams. This web-based software, "Sparrow," allowed the posting of program documents from the Early Adopter program sponsors so that reviewers could have virtually instant access to documents wherever they were. This ability to receive and post documents at will, regardless of particular computer hardware or software, allowed readers to communicate with each other easily and at any time, and reduced the number of times that readers had to make the trip to Sacramento for meetings.

### **Program Accreditation/Approval Recommendations by the Review Team**

The Review Teams used a technology-facilitated process of sharing their thoughts and their individual review forms with each other. A designated individual, the "Team Leader," took the responsibility to combine the various review forms and post a single unified review document to Sparrow. After the review document was posted to Sparrow, Commission staff reviewed the document for completeness and accuracy, and then forwarded the professional preparation program accreditation recommendation in a report to the Committee on Accreditation and the subject matter preparation program approval recommendation to the Commission. Recommendations are not given to the Committee on Accreditation or the Commission until the Review Teams have determined that the proposal meets all required standards.

The program recommended for approval at this meeting is the first elementary subject matter preparation program to be recommended under the SB 2042 standards.

**Recommendation**

That the Commission approve the following program of subject matter preparation for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials:

University of La Verne

